Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Costa Rican Support for U.S. Policy Criticized

PA140329 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 88

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Costa Rica's decision to allow the United States to use its national territory to supply the Nicaraguan counterrevolution was a sudden and surprising turn of events. This action could be considered a new aspect of the war in Central America.

Even though the package approved by the U.S. Congress for contra aid was called "humanitarian," the truth is that these additional funds have helped the rebels maintain their belligerent status. The surprise is even greater when one remembers that President Oscar Arias not only defended the use of his country [by the United States], but went so far as to add that it was an honor to serve the mercenaries' cause.

The president's position, however, was assumed after a long session with Morris Busby, U.S. special envoy to Central America. It goes without saying that the United States exerts pressure, but the fact that the Costa Rican president allows himself to be pressured is not only a sensitive matter for Costa Rica, but is also dangerous for his country and for the region; all the more so because Oscar Arias, the sponsor of the Central American peace plan, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for his meritorious efforts.

Costa Rica is slowly drifting away not only from the Nobel Prize, but also from the status of neutrality of which the tiny Central American country has always boasted. Nobody has forgotten that a group of U.S. troops still remains in Costa Rica under the flimsiest of excuses, preparing the infrastructure that will serve as a bridge, given the possibility of a resurgence of the regional conflict. Many people in Costa Rica believe that Washington's intention in keeping its soldiers in Costa Rica is to accustom the inhabitants to having the soldiers around, so that the country's occupation may be easily carried out, as in the case of Honduras.

A new aspect of the war is being tried out in Costa Rica, where, by showing off the U.S. troops as builders of roads and bridges, an attempt is being made to give them a positive image, an image that is very far from the truth. This will ensure the population's future support for any aggressive action that these troops may undertake. If this is the hidden intention, then it must be said that the Costa Rican president is providing all kinds of facilities to help the plan succeed—and all this despite the difficult economic and social situation being suffered by the people.

Congolese, Red Cross Leaders Continue Visits

Visit Isle of Youth

FL130305 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo and the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, two important figures currently visiting Cuba, have toured the Isle of Youth.

Ange Edouard Poungui, prime minister of the Congo, was received at the Isle of Youth airport by Armando Manresa, first secretary of the party on the island. The high-level Congolese delegation then proceeded to tour the former Modelo Prison, where Fidel and the others who attacked the Moncada Barracks in 1953 were imprisoned. Other places visited by the Congolese prime minister included the Third Party Congress ceramic factory and a marble combine. Ange Edouard Poungui ended his visit to the Isle of Youth with a tour of the 5 February rural school for Congelese students. He was given a big welcome there and enjoyed a multinational artistic performance.

For his part, Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, toured the grounds of the Hendrick Witbooi School for Namibian students. He was given a warm welcome by the youths attending this school on behalf of the more than 20,000 students of various nationalities currently studying on the Isle of Youth. During his stay at the Hendrick Witbooi School, Sommaruga was able to observe the lifestyle of these youths and the education they receive in Cuba. He also enjoyed a cultural performance which represented the customs and traditions of the African country.

[Begin Sommaruga recording in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I am very pleased to have had such a unique experience. Above all, I am happy to see the Nambian youths who study here because this has reminded my colleagues and me of our daily mission to protect and help. I am, therefore, thankful to the Cuban Government and to the authorities of the Isle of Youth for having brought me to this rural school. Thank you. [end recording]

Poungui Tours Santiago

FL131407 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Ange Edouard Poungui, prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo and member of the Politburo of the Congolese Labor Party, has arrived at the city of Santiago de Cuba as part of his official and working visit to our country.

He was met at the Antonio Maceo International Airport by Esteban Lazo, member of the PCC Politburo and first secretary of the provincial party committee in Santiago de Cuba.

The Congolese prime minister previously toured the Isle of Youth, where he visited the Modelo Prison Museum, a national monument. Poungui also toured the Third Party Congress ceramics factory and the marble processing center. The distinguished guest also visited African students at the 5 February rural school, where a festival of friendship and solidarity was held.

ICRC Group Visits Hospitals

FL130225 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Cornelio Sommaruga and the delegation accompanying him visited some hospitals and a family doctor consultation office in Havana this afternoon.

At the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical Surgical Hospital, they were received by Dr Raul Gomez Cabrera, director of the hospital. The delegation was extensively briefed on the services and characteristics of the center. Mr Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], spoke with patients and their relatives. He was also able to observe the progress our country has made in the field of public health. One of the wards they visited was the geriatrics ward. This specialty constitutes one of the areas or fields of medicine currently being developed.

A group of specialists from the William Soler Pediatrics Teaching Hospital welcomed the International Red Cross delegation. The delegation was informed about the facility's outlook and the expansion process underway. Furthermore, they were briefed on pediatrics services provided in Cuba, especially at the heart center. More than 600 operations have been performed from the time it was created to the present, with a survival rate of over 93 percent.

Sommaruga Meets Castro

FL140018 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Cuba is willing to invite the International Red Cross to learn about the living conditions in the country's prisons. This was said during a news conference held by Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, president of that organization.

[Begin Sommaruga recording in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish] The meeting with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, which lasted several hours, was among the activities of my 3-day visit. Thus, I leave very satisfied with the meetings I held here. Above all, I am pleased to have been assured of the high degree of development of relations between the International Committee of the Red Cross and Cuban organizations and authorities. [end recording]

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga is the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and he visited Cuba at the invitation of the government. The Red Cross is an international organization with a membership of 165 countries. It provides assistance to the wounded and prisoners of war and to the civilian population in areas of conflict or victims of natural disasters.

Castro Meets With Uruguayan CP Leader

FL121440 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has had two working meetings with Mr Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay [PCU].

The meetings were held on 9 and 11 April in the atmosphere of mutual understanding and fraternal and warm friendship that historically has characterized relations between the two parties and leaders.

The leaders exchanged views on the international situation and the struggle for peace, disarmament, and development. They also discussed solutions to regional conflicts, economic independence, and nonpayment of the foreign debt. Special attention was paid to the political, economic, and social situation of Latin America.

PCU Delegation Departs

FL121338 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The PCU delegation has departed for the return trip to Montevideo, Uruguay. The group, headed by Rodney Arismendi, visited Cuba at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee.

During their stay in Cuba from 31 March to 12 April the delegation held working meetings with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Army General Raul Castro Ruz, Jorge Risquet Valdes, and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, as well as other party and state leaders.

The delegation from the Uruguayan party's Central Committee also visited Cienfuegos Province and Havana, where they toured several industrial and social projects.

Economic Cooperation Delegation Visits Moscow

FL120020 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Today in Moscow Cuban and USSR delegations examined aspects of the projects and economic objectives being carried out in our country with Soviet assistance.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Balaguer at Meeting for Communist Press Organs

FL130332 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The conference of representatives of press organs from more than 90 communist parties, [words indistinct] and revolutionary democrats began today in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The meeting's main topic is the work of the (INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE), organ of the communist and workers parties. The director of the publication said the magazine needs to reflect today's fundamental problems with more depth. He also stated that work must be done to improve the circulation of the magazine based on cooperation, democratization, and collectivism.

Some 84 delegations from all over the world are attending the meeting, which will end next Friday. Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, is heading the Cuban delegation.

State Labor Committee Head Leaves for Uruguay

FL130025 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Francisco Linares Calvo, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, departed for Uruguay today. He was invited by his counterpart in that South American country.

Group To Organize Labor Law Meeting Created

FL131534 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Apr 88

[Text] The committee to organize the international meeting on labor law and social security was created today at the main headquarters of the National Union of Cuban Lawyers [UNJC] in Havana.

Franciso Linares Calvo, minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, was made honorary president. [UNJC President] Juan Vega Vega was named president of the organizing committee.

Haiti

Radio Nationale States Position, Objectives

FL112145 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Radio Nationale has chosen to take an upright, straight-as-an-arrow position in the battle being waged for a better, democratic Haiti.

Friends, it has been more than 15 days now since the fate of Radio Nationale changed hands. In this move, the flower lost a few petals, but the remaining petals say: Let's work together to make this radio merit the name Radio Nationale.

Many observers were waiting to see the results of the change made 2 weeks ago. We ourselves knew that it would not come about overnight. We also knew that the first place the change was going to be felt was in our newsroom, which is the heart—or, if you prefer, the backbone—of the radio station. It took us a little while to get underway, and this morning we saw the green light and we have gotten underway.

People must also understand that we inherited a bad legacy. The radio will soon be 11 years old; it had quickly been turned into an instrument of bad propaganda until it lost its credibility. We are going to work to recover this credibility. We know it won't be an easy task but we think that, like ants, we can, little by little, carve out a niche for ourselves.

Some people will think that we are the government's radio station. No. We are the nation's radio station, the Haitian people's radio station, and we will behave accordingly. There are also people who (?suggest that we) act like other stations. We say to them: No, we are not other stations; neither are we the opposition.

We exist to inform, educate, train, and provide entertainment. Our objective is to be a national radio, that is, the radio station of the nation of Haiti, the radio station of the Haitian people, which defends the interests of Haiti, of the Haitian nation, and the Haitian people.

Our dream is to become a point of reference. When someone hears a news report on another radio station, we would like for him to run and tune in Radio Nationale for confirmation. This is not a madman's dream. It is a dream that can come true. (?We must) make a commitment to achieve it.

We are not asking anyone to accept us on faith. We are working at getting them to believe in us.

Today we are beginning the new newscast programming. Henceforth, at dawn each morning Radio Nationale will enter your home to inform, educate, and provide you with entertainment.

And although we say that this is the people's radio station, it is up to the people, too, to show that the radio is theirs. Not only should they tune in, but they should also tell us what they like and what they don't like, so that we can correct ourselves. In this way, we can recover our national dimension and become a truly national radio.

KOP on Peasant Situation, Poverty Increase

FL132050 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report from Mirebalais correspondent (Mirabeau Louis)]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The KOP, the Workers/Peasants Committee, has issued a press release on the situation of the peasants, who are hungry and cannot obtain food. They say the situation remains the same, year in and year out, government after government. The poor always have a hard time. Nothing ever changes.

We members of KOP are very deeply moved when we see how hard our peasants work and all the difficulties they have been facing since this new government came to power. We see the poverty of the poor increasing daily in Haiti. Everyone knows well that these poor people are at present being exploited by big landowners. They are having a terrible time obtaining food. The people are crying out for help.

Democratic Unity Group Resumes Assemblies

FL082216 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] An invitation from the KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity]: With a view to getting together to talk things over and seek the path of democracy in Haiti, KID informs all members, sympathizers, and the general public that its series of assemblies, "Micro Populaire" [the people at the microphone], which had stopped for a little while, will resume on Friday, 8 April, at KID headquarters, 19 Rue Champ de Mars, Port-au-Prince.

There will be a discussion of all of Haiti's problems at today's gathering. Diverse committed artists, including (Roline Titus), are to participate in the assembly.

The KID note is signed by (Jean Noel Brice) and (Louis Emilio Passe).

St Lucia

Opposition Moves Away From OECS Initiative

FL091600 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1300 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Progress with the political unification of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] received a setback yesterday when St Lucia's main opposition group said it no longer wished to be associated with the initiative. The statement from the deputy leader of the St Lucian Labor Party [SLP] came as something of a surprise to political observers, as the SLP in the recent past voiced support for the regional initiative, though it did criticize the government's approach.

Unions Reject Government Offer on Wages

FL111824 Bridgetown CANA in English 1801 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 10, CANA—The Industrial Solidarity Pact [ISP] Organisation, grouping unions which represent teachers, civil servants and daily-paid workers, has rejected the St. Lucia Government's offer of a three per cent general wage increase over a three-year period for state-paid workers.

A spokesman for the ISP said the offer was too low and could further aggravate the low morale among public sector workers.

Given the spiralling cost in housing construction, vehicle parts, land, house rental, medical services and foodstuff, government's wage offer was totally unrealistic and lent very little support to alleviating the problems confronting workers, the spokesman complained.

The ISP said Prime Minister John Compton had reported economic growth when he presented his 1988 budget recently.

Whatever economic strides have been realised, the government could not ignore the significant contribution made by the workers in the field of productivity, and maintaining a stable industrial relations climate which are important components in overall economic development.

The unionists urged government's negotiating team to reconsider its three-per cent wage increase offer and approach the negotiation in a more positive manner so as to effect a speedy settlement.

There was no immediate reaction from government.

Trinidad and Tobago

Port Authority Head Resigns; Replacement Named

FL132115 Bridgetown CANA in English 1457 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 13, CANA—Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's troubled Port Authority, Ronnie Jones, has resigned, and has been replaced by Carlos John, an insurance executive, minister of works, Dr. Carsen Charles, announced here Tuesday night.

Jones sent a letter to the minister Friday, strongly critical of his handling of a probe into insurance coverage for a new ferry used for transportation between Trinidad and its northern associate island of Tobago. In his letter, Jones accused Charles of failing to appreciate and support efforts being made to improve operations at the port, and cited specifically the manner in which the investigations into the ferry were handled.

...It is evident that you have lost confidence in me as chairman, and I hereby resign effective immediately, Jones said in his letter. [passage omitted]

Salinas Discusses Foreign, Domestic Issues

Urges Positive U.S. Ties

PA132333 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 5

[By correspondent Miguel Medina y Cruz]

[Excerpt] Tijuana, Baja California, 8 Apr—PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari has told UNOMASUNO: I seek a positive relationship with the United States and therefore suggest that we emphasize our affinities and show respect for our differences within a framework of respect for the self-determination of peoples, nonintervention, peaceful resolution of controversies, and cooperation for development and peace.

During an interview with this reporter, which was intended for the the Mexican-U.S. community, the PRI candidate added that he is convinced what is most important in our relations with the United States is that we Mexicans adhere to the above principles, which we have traditionally respected.

Salinas added that given an area encompassing a 3,000-km border, 70,000 [figure as published] border crossings every year, and two different economies and government systems, this relationship is not an easy one. He is convinced, however, that we can make these ties positive and beneficial to both nations through dialogue and mutual respect.

When asked how Mexico will act with regard to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Panama, the PRI candidate answered that if he becomes president he will apply these same principles to Central America. We have a great interest in Central America because one of our least developed states—Chiapas—borders Guatemala, he said, noting that, therefore, anything that happens in Central America affects Mexico. For this reason, we have consistently called for a political solution through dialogue, because this will allow the Central American countries to devote their efforts toward development.

Salinas stressed that the Central American population is growing at a fast pace and, consequently, if there is no economic development, there will be a great migration to the north, and Mexico will be the first target. "We already have a problem generating jobs for Mexicans, which can be observed in the emigration of our fellow Mexicans to the United States, and any solution that places no emphasis on development and peace in Central America may bring adverse consequences to Mexico," he remarked.

With regard to governing jointly with other parties, respecting the citizens' votes, and achieving modernization, Salinas answered that Mexico has been making progress with its democratic process. He noted that he is currently competing with five candidates. He said: "Twelve years ago, the PRI candidate had no contenders; now nine parties are active in Mexico and there is more competition. This means more democracy." He noted that purged voter lists have been delivered to all political organizations, and he added that the parties are getting support because each one of them has 50 hours of radio and television time, free of charge and at favorable hours, to present their platforms to the community.

He noted that this represents very substantial progress in the process of modernizing Mexico's politics, and he pointed out that he has committed himself to strictly abide by the results of the vote. "I seek victory for my party, but understand that Mexico is a pluralistic nation, that there are differences of opinion and, therefore, different options and choices. I will respect the Mexicans' decision." [passage omitted]

On Election

PA131617 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 8, 9 Apr 88 pp 8, 10

["Exclusive interview" with Carlos Salinas de Gortari, PRI presidential candidate, by "the U.S. Univision Television Network"; date, place not given—published in two installments]

[Excerpts] Q.—Mr Salinas de Gortari, you recently completed an electoral tour in the State of Chihuahua which is viewed as a major hurdle for the PRI. Foreign correspondents stormed Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua expecting an eruption of political violence because your campaign coincided with electoral rallies by opposition candidates Manuel J. Clouthier, of the National Action Party (PAN) and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, of the National Democratic Front (FDN). Yet, nothing happened?

A.—A lot did happen. Chihuahua's political awareness and partisan plurality became broadly manifest. Citizens, however, displayed a great deal of civic responsibility and expressed their militance in an orderly way.

The PRI staged rallies which attracted large crowds such as the rally we held in Ciudad Juarez where, as reported by major media, more than 50,000 people gathered to voice their support for the party's presidential candidate. Order prevailed over enthusiasm and emotion. [passage omitted]

Q.—Does the current economic crisis pose a challenge to Mexico's political stability?

A.—An orderly transition of power. Full compliance with the law. The strength of the Mexican institution and the political options the system presents to the people strongly enhance the prospects of political stability in Mexico. We shall remain as the architects of our own fate unwilling to subordinate our future to foreign interests. We shall not isolate ourselves from the rest of the world.

On the contrary, we are proud to belong to the world's cultural, commercial, political and financial community. We will be sure, however, to preserve our identity.

Q.—Addressing a party assembly in Hermosillo, Son., you admitted the PRI had an electoral setback. You also have made a commitment to respect the people's vote. Will the PRI concede the opposition parties electoral victories? Will the system provide broader space for the opposition?

A.—Yes. The PRI will recognize the electoral triumphs won by the opposition because, as far as I am concerned, democracy does not mean to grant political spots to rival parties at the expense of legitimate achievement by our own party members. To me, the substance of democracy is to uphold the will of the people. If voters elect a PRI candidate, I will resort to the power of the law to defend their victories. But if the opposite is true, I will respect the people's mandate.

Q.—Will broader political room be opened for opposition parties?

A.—That is up to the people to decide. As a PRI candidate, I try to convince the voters to keep my party democratically in power. Voters will determine whether to place more opposition candidates in government offices. I represent and promote the principles of the PRI. I will seek victories through free and clean elections. [passage omitted]

Q.—Should voters elect you for presidential office, what will be your policy on drug-trafficking?

A.—I consider drug-trafficking as a national security affair. Therefore, I plan to wage a frontal battle against narcotics regardless of the actions implemented elsewhere, whether they be producer or consumer countries. Drug-trafficking challenges the permanence of public and civil institutions. The narcotics trade endangers the family, poses a threat to community structures and imperils the soundness of government. Drug money fosters corruption at all levels and I refuse to let narcotics disrupt the structures of the Mexican family and community

Q.—If you become Mexico's next president, what will be your policy on Central America and Cuba?

A.—The Mexican people have built a foreign policy based upon principles. When you lack military force, you develop strong principles. Mexico loves peace and respect. That's why we depend largely on principles: non-intervention, self-determination and peaceful settlement to conflicts. Regarding Central America, I have confirmed Mexico's stance built upon the aforementioned principles. We do not believe in violence as the means to bridge disputes in Central America. Rather, we have called for dialogue and political coordination as the best means to achieve major breakthroughs to bring peace to Central America.

Q.—Nepotism, concretely the appointment of relatives to public posts, and corruption by family members within the government have been harshly criticized in past administrations. How would you deal with this issue?

A.—The party will pursue this situation. It will not be a decision from the top. The party's rank and file demand the strengthening of the procedures.

Q.—What will be your position regarding nepotism in the designation of candidates for public office?

A.—The nomination of candidates for public office will be made in the light of the law. President Miguel de la Madrid introduced far-reaching legal reforms that preclude, legally, the designation of relatives to leading positions in public administration in addition to stringent penalties for corrupt officials.

I believe in the law. And I intend to enforce it should I become president. [passage omitted]

Q.—Mr Salinas de Gortari, the Mexican-U.S. relationship has been characterized as fluctuating, highlighting intervention and harmony. How would you approach this relationship?

A.—The Mexican-U.S. relationship has never been totally harmonious.

Q.—Never?

A.—Never. Because the relationship between two nations with political, economic and cultural differences is difficult. Therefore, I propose the pursuit of a mutually respectful relationship. I propose to explore broader avenues to remain as good neighbors as possible and share the benefits produced by this neighborhood and avoid confrontation. [passage omitted]

Cardenas Calls for Defense of Electoral Rights

PA131933 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 8

[Article by Ruben Arizmendi; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Queretaro City, Queretaro State, 8 Apr—Today Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano said that the Mexican people need rulers and representatives committed to the people. He added that "we must be organized when the need arises and take to the streets, because we will win the next elections by demanding full compliance with the law."

The National Democratic Front's presidential candidate led a political rally in this city. He added that the next government will respect freedom of thought and association. Only total exercise of the rights granted by the Constitution for all Mexicans will allow the building of an authentic democracy.

Meeting with a large number of followers in this city's main square, where the Constitution was proclaimed, Cardenas Solorzano said the president must limit himself to fulfilling his constitutional duties. The president should not assume political functions that only belong to the organized people and the political parties."

Cardenas Solorzano, who concluded his campaign in this state, added that this time we are not fighting for a few municipalities but for respect for the will of the people. We are fighting so the people will decide the direction of their own destinies in the 300 districts and the 32 federal states."

Cardenas Solorzano noted that the government must remember it is leading a people who are determined, courageous, and not afraid to face repression. This time, the people are going to rescue the plan of the Mexican revolution. He added that those who are part of this electoral struggle to rescue the country's sovereignty "are not ready for deals. We are going to defend our victory on 6 July through all legal means." [passage omitted]

The candidate also advocated compliance with all constitutional precepts so our trade unions and organizations have a true democracy. This way, the workers may freely decide who their leaders are, and these leaders may not not become chieftains who exploit the workers.

At Obregon Square, he said that "the government should not interfere in any way with those organizations. Only the will of the workers themselves, expressed in an organized manner, can constitute a political plan for independent development in order to build a democratic country. [passage omitted]

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister on 3-Day Visit

FL122340 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0425 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Today Kaya Erdem, deputy prime minister of Turkey, arrived in our country on an official 3-day visit. The main purpose of the visit is to increase political, trade, and social relations and ties between the two countries.

During a news conference granted at Mexico City's Benito Juarez International Airport, the Turkish deputy prime minister noted this is the first time an official from his country has paid an official visit to Mexico.

Kaya Erdem is accompanied by 20 Turkish businessmen, who will exchange experiences with representatives of the Mexican private sector to establish economic relations in various fields of industry.

The Turkish official will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado and with Bernardo Sepulveda, Hector Hernandez, and Fernando Hiriart, secretaries of foreign relations, commerce and industrial development, and energy, mines, and parastatal industry, respectively.

Sepulveda Hosts Dinner

FL140125 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0203 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Today Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor asserted that no power can take upon itself the right to approve the acts of another society or government and no one has the right to impose behaviors, ideas, or political or economic systems on other countries.

In a speech delivered during the dinner he hosted for Kaya Erdem, deputy prime minister of Turkey, who is in Mexico on an official visit, Sepulveda Amor defined the position of the Mexican Government regarding the conflict between Greeks and Turks, as well as the conflicts in Afghanistan and Central America.

The foreign secretary reiterated that the Mexican Government supports the proposal made in the United Nations regarding the Cypriot problem which guarantees respect for the rights and aspirations of the Cypriot communities with regard to their territorial integration and the island's independence.

Regarding Afghanistan, Sepulveda said the Mexican Government is pleased with the diplomatic negotiations, which will prevent more deaths and destruction in the region. He asserted that the ongoing negotiations should have as the ultimate goal the guaranteeing of the free self-determination of the Afghan people.

On Central America, he asserted that the Mexican Government opposes the intention of including the Central American conflict in the East-West confrontation. He stressed: We encourage diplomatic options over military ones. He added that Mexico has expressed its repudiation of the use of force, threats, or economic pressures, since they are illegitimate instruments which are disapproved by international law, especially inter-American law. Sepulveda said that, within this framework, the progress made between the Nicaraguan Government and the contras are evidence of the possibilities of dialogue in achieving peace.

We firmly hope that a negotiated solution will prevail over the use of force and that solid and just agreements are reached so that peace returns to the brother country and tension in the area is reduced, the foreign secretary said.

For his part, the Turkish deputy prime minister reiterated that his country favors the peaceful resolution of the Cypriot problem through direct negotiations on an equal basis between the Turkish and Greek-Cypriot sides sponsored by Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations.

He asserted that a just and lasting solution is possible in Cyprus based on the establishment of an independent, nonaligned federal state with two communities and two zones.

Kaya Erdem stated that his visit to Mexico coincides with the opening of the Turkish economy to international markets. Regarding this, he said Mexico is one of the important potential partners, and he is convinced that the two countries have a lot to offer each other.

Interparliamentary Meeting Held With Egypt

FL130018 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1501 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 12 Apr (NOTIMEX)—During the first Mexico-Egypt interparliamentary meeting, the two countries have called for a new and more just international economic order based on equality.

Salvador Neme Castillo and Rif'at al-Mahjub, representatives of Mexico and Egypt, respectively, said the international economic order has to change to prevent the crisis situation being experienced by developing countries from becoming worse. [passage omitted]

The president of the Egyptian parliament asserted that if the creditor countries do not modify their present economic policies, debtor countries will be forced into not paying their commitments because of a lack of resources. [passage omitted]

Likewise, he said Mexico and Egypt should come to an agreement, outside OPEC, to plan strategies aimed at ensuring the stability of the oil market. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Jan, Feb Trade Figures

Mexico's trade balance for January, February 1988 shows a surplus of $1.125 billion, a 26.3 percent drop over the same period last year, a preliminary report released Monday by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Information says. The report blames the lower surplus on a 9.3 percent reduction in earnings from petroleum products and a 51 percent increase in intermediary inputs (imports which are used in manufactured goods for sale here and abroad). The report says non-petroleum exports continued to be strong, accounting for $1.205 billion in revenues during the month of February and showing an annual growth of 39.5 percent. It notes that February was the sixth consecutive month in which non-petroleum exports went over the 1 billion-dollar mark. For the two-month period, the report puts the annual growth rate of non-petroleum exports at 27.6 percent. It notes that although petroleum exports as a whole—$1.194 billion—fell 9.3 percent, petrochemical exports grew by 160.2 percent. Total exports for January and February were $3.443 billion, 11.8 percent above the same period last year, the report says. It puts the value of all imports for the 2 months at $2.318 billion, a 49.3 percent increase over the same period last year. [Excerpts] [*PA122120 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 5 Apr 88 p 35*]

Costa Rica

Arias on Topics for Discussion in U.S.

PA132328 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez traveled to Washington this morning to address more than 1,000 American editors. Arias Sanchez will meet in Washington on Thursday with Vice President George Bush, who, according to Arias, requested a meeting, as did Secretary of State George Shultz. Although there is no set agenda for the meeting, President Arias discussed several topics likely to be discussed.

[Begin Arias recording] I feel the next topic to be discussed is the future of Central America; namely, how the peace plan is progressing. Of course, I also wish to discuss bilateral issues and to state that the next step the United States should take is to aid Central Americans, specifically Costa Ricans, to overcome underdevelopment. [end recording]

Regarding the meeting President Arias wanted to hold with Secretary of State Shultz, Arias said at a press conference held prior to his departure for the United States that it had not been possible to schedule such a meeting. However, he did not dismiss the possibility of an unofficial meeting with Shultz to discuss the guidelines for possible bilateral negotiations between the United States and the five Central American countries. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

ARENA Appeals La Union Election Recount

PA132028 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 2

[Excerpts] Yesterday legal representatives of the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) filed an appeal with the Central Elections Council (CCE) asking that the latter nullify the recount of votes for La Union Department deputies. The recount had been carried out by two CCE members.

Alfredo Cristiani and Dr Jose Francisco Guerrero, president and director of ARENA's legal and electoral affairs office, respectively, presented to CCE Secretary General Dr Justo Abarca a written request to nullify the recount, which was described as fraudulent and which took place at 1700 on 29 March. [passage omitted]

The legal representatives said that in the initial vote count, two deputies and two alternates from ARENA were legally declared elected in La Union Department.

According to the written request presented by ARENA, the CCE manipulated the final vote count to deprive ARENA of one deputy, with which it had a majority in the Legislative Assembly. According to the first vote count, ARENA had 31 deputies, the Christian Democratic Party had 23, and the National Conciliation Party had 6.

The CCE has 24 hours to make a decision on this appeal, which aims to clarify the true results of the elections in La Union Department, where ARENA claims it won two deputies.

Honduras

Armed Forces Reject 'Disinformation Campaign'

PA131919 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 13 April]

[Text] Official communique:

The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate issues a communique to the national and international public stating that in view of the disinformation campaign conducted at a national and international level aimed at discrediting top officers of the Honduran Armed Forces and the armed institution in an effort to make them give up their fight against drug trafficking, it points out the following:

1. The capture of drug trafficker Ramon Matta Ballesteros, alias Ramon Matta Lopez and Ramon Matta Del Fuego, was strictly a police operation carried out by public security forces in compliance with orders from the Armed Forces High Command.

2. The participation of the Honduran Armed Forces, through the Public Security Forces, to provide protection for the U.S. diplomatic mission—where unfortunate incidents occurred at the U.S. General Consulate buildings in this capital on 7 April—and as part of a chain-of-command hierarchy, followed orders from the general command of the Army headquarters and at no time disobeyed those orders.

3. We reject offensive and false reports that were greatly publicized—possibly financed with drug-trafficking money—that stated that Honduran Armed Forces cadres are paid by drug trafficker Ramon Matta or are beneficiaries of the dividends they receive from their involvement in the dirty business of international drug trafficking.

4. We reject unfounded and rash reports that Infantry Colonel Leonel Aquiles Rivera Lunatti, general commander of the Public Security Forces, allegedly upset because of the capture of the dangerous criminal, cooperated with the demonstrators who carried out the acts of vandalism against the U.S. Consulate.

5. The Honduran Armed Forces reiterate their firm decision to continue fighting against this scourge of humanity, just as it has shown through the confiscation of large quantities of drugs and the seizure of air, land, and sea transportation vehicles. We have placed ourselves under the orders of the appropriate tribunals, thereby safeguarding the moral, spiritual, cultural, patriotic, and democratic values of the Honduran people.

6. To firmly face this discrediting campaign, the Honduran Armed Forces reiterate their forceful demand for the presentation of evidence and proof that those who attack the officers and the institution say they have. They have made irresponsible accusations in an attempt to discredit the officers in hopes of destabilizing the armed institution, which is a bastion and base of the country's democratic system.

Tegucigalpa, 13 April 1988

[Signed] Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces

New Groups Announce Anti-U.S. Protests

PA131707 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1612 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Report by Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today Honduras returned to normal with the lifting of the state of emergency that had been in effect in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula since Friday. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, today two previously unknown anti-U.S. movements announced they will undertake protest actions against what they described as "gringo interference in Honduras' internal affairs and violations of the Constitution and sovereignty."

The movements are the 7 April Martyrs [Martires del 7 de Abril—M-7A] and the Francisco Morazan Constitutionalist Front [Frente Constitucionalista Francisco Morazan—FCFM]; their ideologies are unknown.

In calls to Honduran and foreign media, M-7A spokesmen announced its creation and plans to promote popular anti-U.S. mobilizations.

Meanwhile, today the FCFM published a paid ad in the newspaper TIEMPO in which it condemns the government for permitting the "gringo intervention in Honduras' internal affairs, the violation of the Constitution, and the trampling of national sovereignty." [passage omitted]

'Violations' Rejected

PA132013 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Apr 88 p 40

[Paid advertisement by the Francisco Morazan Constitutionalist Front (FCFM): "Communique to the Honduran people from the FCFM for the rescue of national dignity and respect for the people's rights"; issued in Tegucigalpa on 12 April]

[Text] In view of the recent developments in our country, the FCFM, composed of social, political, labor, and other organizations, states the following to the Honduran people:

1. The popular demonstrations that occurred in diverse parts of the country, chiefly in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, show the high level of dissatisfaction, indignation, and rejection that have been accumulating among Hondurans as a result of the constant violations to national sovereignty and the Constitution by the U.S. Government, with the approval of the government presided over by Jose Azcona. The extradition of any Honduran violates Article 10 of the Penal Code and Article 102 of the Constitution. The violation of these articles naturally provokes a reaction by the people in defense of their guarantees.

2. The murder of five Hondurans on 7 April in front of the U.S. Embassy by its Marines adds to the hundreds of Hondurans that the repressive forces have made disappear or have killed with the denial of rights to the working classes and the presence of foreign troops in the country.

3. The arrival in Honduras on 3 March of 3,200 U.S. soldiers to protect the Nicaragua contras, which is humiliating to our national sovereignty, especially stirred the spirit of the Honduran people and prepared them for the struggle against abuses of this sort.

4. The blood of Honduran patriots shed on 7 April engraves that day in the conscience of the people as the day of national dignity. Their blood will not have been shed in vain.

5. Instead of amending its errors, the government reacted to the dissatisfaction of the people by decreeing a state of emergency and adopting repressing measures. These measures include censorship of the news media, militarization of the Francisco Morazan Higher Teachers School and the National University, the arrest of over 3,000 citizens, the persecution and arrest of popular leaders, and terrorist acts perpetrated near the Honduran Human Rights Commission offices. Through these actions, the government is generating new confrontations with the people and inflicting more injuries on Honduran society.

6. The FCFM, in this difficult moment aggravating the economic, social, political, and cultural crisis affecting Honduras, calls on our people and their organizations of struggle to join efforts in a single and powerful popular movement. Through a single strategy and coordinated actions, this movement should mobilize its forces to rescue national dignity and the sovereignty of the fatherland, demand respect for the Constitution, reject repression against the people, and demand solutions to the most pressing problems of the people. These solutions include implementing true land reform, providing jobs for unemployed workers, amending the labor laws, etc. These solutions should lead to an improvement in the living conditions of our fatherland's working class.

7. To end, the FCFM demands the following from the Honduran Government and Armed Forces:

a) Permanent respect for constitutional guarantees;

b) Respect for freedom of expression and the suspension of censorship;

c) Trials for civilians and officers responsible for drug trafficking;

d) Immediate release of the over 300 people who have been jailed since 7 April;

e) Demilitarization of the Francisco Morazan Higher Teachers School;

f) Immediate indemnification to the relatives of the citizens murdered by the gringo embassy during the 7 April protest;

g) Refusal to pay the indemnity the gringo embassy is demanding;

h) Departure of the gringo troops and contras stationed on our territory; and

i) An end to persecution and arrests of popular leaders.

"The Fatherland is [words indistinct]; come, defend its banner." Franciso Morazan. Tegucigalpa, D.C. 12 Apr 88 FCFM

Nicaragua

H. Ortega Urges RN To Attend 15 Sep Meeting

PA140435 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0310 GMT 14 Apr 88

["Text" of letter sent by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra to Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) leader Adolfo Calero; date not given]

[Text] Mr Adolfo Calero, director:

At 1100 today I received, via fax, your letter dated 13 April. Regarding your letter I will state the following:

1. The fact that you continue to precondition your attendance at the top-level meeting scheduled for 15 April deeply concerns us. These preconditions have become evident in your letter that states: Depending on the results of the Sapoa meeting, the top-level delegation will arrive in Managua on 15 April and will remain there through 18 April. In this regard, I wish to reiterate what I said yesterday in my letter to you: You are preconditioning the 15 April meeting on the results of a meeting of the special commissions knowing that in a single day it will be impossible to achieve what has not been possible during meetings that have lasted 6 days. This seems to indicate that you are looking for an excuse to postpone the top-level meeting that, according to the Sapoa agreements, should have been held on 6 April. The first meeting was unilaterally suspended by you.

2. The preconditioning worries us because your attendance at the meeting on 15 April depends on an improvised meeting in Sapoa to be held only 12 hours prior to the day on which the top-level meeting is scheduled.

3. Regarding your insistence on holding other activities that are not within the framework of the Sapoa agreements, I wish to reiterate what Comrade Victor Hugo Tinoco told Roberto Ferrey in his 9 April letter. In his letter, Comrade Tinoco states that since the reason for the 15 April meeting, according to the Sapoa agreements signed on 23 March, is to continue negotiating all matters regarding a definite cease-fire, it is too soon to discuss other matters that are not within the framework of this meeting. Further activities may be discussed as the meeting advances and as progress is made in the achievement of the final goal.

4. We agree with your suggestion that the Directorate's top-level delegation should remain in Managua from 15 through 18 April. Likewise, we are prepared to receive the advance group scheduled to arrive on 14 April. As I mentioned yesterday in my letter, I think the arrival of the advance group, which you have agreed to send at our invitation and which will be headed by Roberto Ferrey, will be very useful. The advance group will study the site where the 15 April meeting will be held.

5. Taking into consideration that there will not be much time, we are willing to suspend the meeting of the technical-military commissions that are preparatory to the top-level meeting. The Nicaraguan Government and Nicaraguan Resistance top-level delegations are aware of all that was discussed during the 6-day meeting in Sapoa.

6. Regarding the concern expressed by His Excellency Ambassador Joao Baena Soares and His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, we feel that it is essential that the RN Directorate officially confirm that it is willing to attend the 15 April meeting. If this should not

be the case, then advise them that you will not be attending the meeting. For our part, we also wish to know what your decision is so that we may prepare for this top-level meeting.

Free Fatherland or Death!

[Signed] General of the Army Humberto Ortega Saavedra

Nicaraguan Defense Minister

Access to Bishops, Paper

PA140228 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0157 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Communique No 29 issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 13 April]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic informs the Nicaraguan people and the international community of the contents of the following note:

Managua, 13 April 1988

Mr Roberto Ferrey, Miami, U.S.A.

In order to facilitate holding the high-level meeting on 15 April in Managua between the delegations of the Nicaraguan constitutional government and of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Directorate, I hereby inform you that to the extent that it does not hamper the agenda for the meeting to negotiate a definitive cease-fire, the necessary conditions will be provided for you to meet with whatever members of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference you desire, as well as with the directors and owners of the newspaper LA PRENSA.

We are doing all this in response to the requests made by you as a condition for attending the meeting that should have been held on 6 April and is now scheduled for Friday, 15 April.

Sincerely,

[Signed] Victor Hugo Tinoco, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

RN To Attend Meetings

PA132056 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2010 GMT 13 Apr 88

["Text" of note from Nicaraguan Resistance leaders "issued by Jorge Rosales in Miami"; date, place not given]

[Text] In reference to your 12 April note [not further identified], we continue to be willing to attend the high-level meeting scheduled by mutual agreement to be held on 15 April. We still plan to send an advance delegation on 14 April to plan high-level and other meetings. Consistent with Point 2 of the Sapoa agreement, it is up to the special commissions to agree on fundamental aspects of the current truce—ceasing of military operations. We are willing to expedite the special commissions' agreements. Our special commission will attend the Sapoa meeting with full powers at 1200 on 14 April.

The high-level delegation, in accordance with the Sapoa agreement, will arrive in Managua in the afternoon on 15 April and will stay there until 18 April. We already have reservations at the Inter-Continental Hotel. We understand that during our stay in Managua we will meet with various civic organizations and persons.

Attentively,

[Signed] For the Directorate, Dr Adolfo Calero, director; Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director

Carrion Discusses State Restructuring

PA131255 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 3

[Report on interview with Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, Nicaraguan Economy, Industry, and Commerce Minister, with unidentified reporter in Managua; date not given—quotation marks as published]

[Text] The merger of the Ministries of Industries, Foreign Trade, and Interior Trade has been little explained. The term compaction has been little explained. For many people, it chiefly means a "reduction" of state structures and their plans, resulting in unemployment.

Admittedly, the recent announcements, which include the appointment of Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz as minister of the new ministry, justifiably raise the public's attention. Yet, it is now necessary to explain the term compaction. This term has almost become a vogue "slogan" [preceding word in English] separate from the fundamental process of the economic revolution.

The strategic meaning of the redistribution of human and material forces—based on efficiency and production yields, the opening of greater maneuvering room, and the permanent participation of the workers and the private sector in economic actions—represents major aspects of the process of state compaction.

This effort must never be regarded as an admission of inadequate government performance. Instead, these efforts must be regarded as a decision in line with the need to transform an apparatus that has existed for a few

years into one that is more rational and efficient. This apparatus transformed a totally Somozist state that was in line with the economic and political goals of suppressing the people.

The economic reform and the restructuring of the state within the context of the reform must also be regarded, if not within the outlook of a development in the economy, at least as constituting the measures that may be adopted jointly with the possibility of peace. Therefore, it is the culmination of a period of survival prompted by the imperialist war. We interviewed Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, minister of economy, industry, and commerce, under these conditions, and as part of the effort to inform the people about the process that is just beginning. This effort is still in the phase of objectives and explanations. Luis Carrion Cruz discussed the reasons for the merger of the ministries. He also discussed the scope of the participation of all the sectors.

In his office located in the Silvio Mayorga Building, Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, newly appointed minister of economy, industry, and commerce, agreed to talk for the first time about his new responsibilities as the head of what many people refer to as a "superministry."

The commander smiled when we insisted on the view with which the people have regarding the change. One could regard the change as a merger of these ministries rather than a compaction.

Carrion Cruz admitted [illegible] has been regarded that way. However, this is not really a 'superministry.' It lacks overall powers over the economy. Instead it performs general duties such as regulating domestic commerce and promoting exports. Basically, this ministry joins three specific activities. The only 'superministry' here is the National Planning Council headed by the president. That is where the fundamental decisions regarding the economy as a whole are adopted."

[Reporter] What is the basic reason for this merger?

[Carrion] "The decision to merge these ministries is part of the general movement carried out by the revolutionary government. The goal is to make the size of the government more in line with the economic crisis we are experiencing, expedite the government's economic activities, and reduce the number of ministries and ministers.

"Specifically, the ministry I have been appointed to head joins the areas of industry and domestic and foreign trade. It also joins aspects that are very closely related with the problems of production and supplies of basic consumer products for the people."

[Reporter] It seems like a sum of ministries. How can this be related to the need for more austerity and less bureaucracy?

The leader shakes his head in denial and emphasizes: "Compaction has two effects and purposes: The reduction of structures and posts—particularly duplicate ones that do not fulfill indispensable functions—and allowing, in the process, the appointment of more qualified and capable cadres to basic tasks. These tasks were previously dispersed in exceedingly large structures, and their potential could not be fully exploited.

"This will have positive effects in enterprises that may hire qualified personnel from the government's structures.

"Now then, referring to the sum of ministries you mentioned, the first phase will be a merger of common and similar areas in each of the ministries. These actions and the experience gained will allow a better organization—different from the first moments—in the future."

[Reporter] Will the repercussions of this compaction affect industries' production capacity in any way?

[Carrion] "The compaction exclusively refers to institutional structures. The enterprises' process is aimed at cutting costs and increasing efficiency and productivity; this is related to our economic reform and not to the compaction. This includes a heavy devaluation of the cordoba, which affects the companies' production costs. Therefore, the companies have been compelled to cut costs by strengthening their internal organization, reducing their payrolls, and improving their production system. Otherwise, their exports could not compete, at least in the Central American market."

[Reporter] I understand that certain agrarian and livestock corporations will develop their own exports. Will foreign trade concentrate its efforts on the industry sector's exports?

[Carrion] "That sector will carry out the necessary activities to develop our exports in general and not only include the industrial sector. All types of exports will be developed, including the small handicraft and agricultural industries.

[Reporter] Are there plans to export more of our industrial production?

[Carrion] "Exports are developed mainly because we need more foreign exchange. However, we only sell the surplus because we could never restrict the availability of products for our internal market. The country cannot increase its exports for the time being, and most of the production is necessary for the people's consumption.

Nevertheless, the government intends to support any effort exerted in the export sector. Certain industries were created within the framework of the Central American Common Market and have a production capacity exceeding domestic demands, but their export capacity was affected by the economic boycott."

[Reporter] Bearing in mind what you have pointed out and the difficult situation of the industrial infrastructure, what do you think of the demand for efficiency in the enterprises from the standpoint of the practical possibilities to attain it?

[Carrion] "The maximum rationality and efficiency are required because they are facing such a difficult situation. We cannot measure their profitability and efficiency on the basis of normal conditions. We have to act under an adverse situation that stems from the tremendous squeeze on our foreign exchange earnings, the gradual deterioration of many industries because of the lack of maintenance, the instability of the labor force, and the irregular supply of electric power, among other factors.

We cannot expect huge results, but we are obliged to reduce production costs to a minimum and to be more attuned to the situation of a country whose economy is undergoing attrition because it has been at war for several years.

[Reporter] Therefore, the streamlining does not stem from a new strategy regarding industrial production?

[Carrion] There is no strategic industrial development plan, because we do not have the resources or the possibility to undertake huge projects. I insist: The decision is part of the government's overall effort toward economic efficiency.

[Reporter] Regarding specific problems faced by industrial firms, what is your view about the lack of speed in fixing prices and the objective need to adjust costs gradually according to the real value of goods?

[Carrion] "I think there is a conflict between the desire to keep a close eye on prices and the ability to fix them in an expeditious manner. The number of prices is huge, and when one tries to establish them administratively to protect consumers, things become complicated instead.

"The government is making great efforts to improve the procedures for approving prices and wants to leave some of them for approval by the Planning and Budget Secretariat. In any event, we continue analyzing and discussing this process, but have not yet found an appropriate mechanism to fix them."

[Reporter] Have you formed an opinion concerning the workers' say in the economic efforts of industrial firms?

[Carrion] "I have just been appointed and do not have enough information to determine how much they have succeeded in gaining such leverage. However, I must say that I have found good institutional communication in the industrial sector, with worker representatives on the board of the industries, in which the main decisions are adopted.

"There is a political and union movement to bolster the production efforts through increased efficiency. This has been quite substantial even though not all workers have been involved. We must not fail to mention—as an economic, ideological, and moral value—the work done by the economic brigades, the vanguard workers, and the innovators movement.

Panama

General Noriega Addresses Military Cadets

PA132217 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, at the General Benjamin Ruiz School at the Division General Omar Torrijos Herrera Base, Rio Hato, on 13 April—recorded]

[Text] Messrs Governor of the province, Director of the National Culture Institute, distinguished Panamanian intellectuals and writers, civilians, military attaches, special guests, cadet relatives, friends from the base, and Benjamin Ruiz School cadets:

We are greatly pleased to celebrate today one more anniversary, to historically present ourselves for the benefit of the advancement of the professional mind of these young Panamanians, who knew how to complete their courses, to assimilate them, and to be productive. Last year we spoke of leadership—the backbone of the men whose destiny is to lead other men. That was precisely the message. It is a difficult task to acknowledge being a leader at a level where there are no excuses, where no one else can be blamed for what was not accomplished, or for errors committed.

This quality of leadership that we spoke of last year, after evaluating another year, we see as we saw then, as the laws of nature dictate: He who persists survives; he who does not feel inferior or cowardly becomes stronger. The ones who move ahead are the ones whose reasoning and intelligence tells them that their nerves are designed to move ahead, and not to cry or back down.

Military life, which is nothing more than just living, which is nothing more than the wise scriptures, and the wise passages we find within that magical and wise book that the Reverend Chaplain Marin reads us daily and that are contained in the psalm reader's words, when he tells of the time to be born, to reproduce, and even to die; when he tells us of the land's fruit, of the seeds that fall in fertile places, and of the seeds that are blown away and are lost; and he tells of the leviathan, the monster, the powerful, evil, and wicked monster that wants to subjugate the weak peoples, and that has existed ever since the world was created. This same leviathan that today wants to rise against Panama and against a people comprising 2 million nonoffensive inhabitants is the same leviathan that will only have to answer to God.

Today we are very proud—and I am not speaking as commander—to see before us a very special, very Panamanian mix of uniforms, intellectuals, and officials. We have before us the future generation: [students] at a military school built in Panama by Panamanians and for Panamanians. The school was built in our image and likeness. [sentence as heard]

Today, gentlemen cadets, instructors, and personnel of the Omar Torrijos Herrera Base, we are very proud to see what this base has become. When the base was originally abandoned by the United States, handed over to Panama as the result of the pressure exerted by Panamanian nationalism, it had been destroyed. The United States, like the vengeful leviathan, wanted to destroy the airstrip. They destroyed the barracks, filled the toilets with cement to make them useless. They destroyed the swimming pool. This place was a mess. However, today we are proud because despite the ashes left behind by the arrogant imperialist—condemned to die according to the laws of life, evolution, and the world's social doctrines—today this base is open to everyone. In the past no one could enter the base. Today all intellectuals, peasants, and children can enter the base without any trouble. We are proud that we belong to an armed forces that does not ask anyone for permission to be an armed forces. [applause] We are also proud that despite our limitations, we do not have to depend on the arrogant to go where we please within our country's borders. [applause]

We are proud to show that our territory must be respected; we proved that last night. You do not have to be a general or commander to get respect. Last night a captain and a lieutenant showed that the [people's] right to use our roads must be respected. They did this when the arrogant leviathan tried to block the Pan-American Highway. This makes us proud. Our evolution is resulting in better trained men; men with more courage than the commander and the general staff. These men have more training and experience. They have learned this from their superiors.

To the Benjamin Ruiz School cadets we wish to say: Be proud of the flag that has been placed in your hands. Whether this flag remains raised or trampled on by a foreign army will depend on you.

CRITICA: 2 More U.S. Soldiers Killed

PA131455 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Nervous and totally scared, the U.S. invader troops stationed on the banks of the canal continue to shoot each other and inflict serious casualties on themselves.

CRITICA has been able to confirm that between 2030 and 2100 yesterday, at the entrance to Howard Air Force Base, there was another shooting incident between soldiers of the invader troops that left two more dead.

Immediately after the confrontation between them, the gringo troops proceeded to block the Pan-American Highway approximately 5 km from the Bridge of the Americas with three military trucks to prevent access by civilians or reporters who might publicize the incident.

We have received reports that the U.S. troops are under great psychological pressure from the military chiefs and that tension is increasing because they know they have been brought to a country and for a mission they know nothing about.

It has also been reported that last night's shooting occurred when they opened fire on something moving among the palm trees.

These soldiers who have been brought to our country by the Ronald Reagan government to invade us are so scared that when they see the palm fronds moving they imagine Panamanian soldiers advancing.

This is the second incident in less than 24 hours in which only U.S. forces are involved, leaving three people dead.

Officials Charge U.S. C-130 Violates Airspace

PA140351 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Last night Panamanian civil aviation radar detected the presence of a U.S. Army C-130 aircraft flying in circles over Panama City at an altitude of approximately 6,000 feet.

Despite insistent calls by Panamanian air controllers, the crew of the sinister aircraft did not identify itself, thus endangering commercial aviation.

This action is added to a series of provocative measures and acts taken by the U.S. Government against the Panamanian people to sow panic and terror among the community.

These flights are also carried out with the aim of gathering electronic information and taking night photographs of different points of the capital city.

Panamanian civil aviation authorities have said that measures will be taken to prevent further violations of Panamanian airspace and to prevent commercial and civil aviation from being endangered. [passage omitted]

Hydrocarbons Director Denies Fuel Shortage

PA131545 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Apr 88 p 7

[Text] Today the Hydrocarbons Directorate of the Commerce and Industries Ministry [MICI] denied reports of an imminent shortage of fuel in the country. It stated that there is a 60-day supply of gasoline, light diesel, and kerosene.

Eng Nitzia de Villareal, director of that MICI office, said there are enough reserves of refined fuel. As a result, the yearly maintenance program on Panama refinery tanks has been advanced from May to April. There is a 60-day supply, she said.

"For the time being, there is no problem with the fuel supply," Eng Villareal said, because the state guarantees the appropriate distribution of the product, mainly in the form of gasoline and diesel.

Butane gas (cooking gas) distribution is normal. Kerosene distribution is also normal, and its supply is guaranteed for about 2 months.

The hydrocarbons director admitted that banking restrictions are affecting the opening of credit notes to buy crude in Mexico and Venezuela. However, she pointed out that the Panama refinery is obtaining raw materials in Ecuador.

"We are holdings talks with Mexico and Venezuela to prevent a crude shortage," she said.

Riot Police Disperse Crusade Protest, Arrest 7

PA132307 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Panama city, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Several hundred demonstrators, mostly unemployed, were dispersed by riot police today as they tried to stage a protest march along the main avenue of this capital.

After the riot police appeared, the demonstrators, gathered by the opposition National Civic Crusade [CCN], fled and others erected garbage barricades, causing traffic congestion.

At least seven demonstrators were arrested, ACAN-EFE learned, and, in several cases, opposition members were taken out of homes and apartments where they had sought refuge from the police.

Groups of people dressed as civilians, who were even armed with smoke grenades, circulated throughout the area to ascertain the opposition members' movements.

The neighborhood where the incidents occurred is one of the poorest of the capital and was where thousands of unemployed and even state officials confronted the police to protect some of the demonstrators being pursued.

Although the number of demonstrators was not large, between eight to ten military vehicles with some 12 soldiers inside each were sent to quell the protest.

Unemployment in Panama reached 11.6 percent in 1987, among an active labor population of 770,472 people, according to official figures. [passage omitted]

Carlos Valencia, president of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists, told ACAN-EFE that "the strike obscures from the strikers the reality facing the various economic sectors," and in light of the fact that businesses are not operating they [the strikers] themselves do not know their economic situation.

"Fifty percent of the 600 industries that operate in Panama, employing some 60,000 people, are paralyzed, and the closure of the banks has caused irreversible damage to the economy," Valencia added.

FUP on Current Political, Economic Situation

PA140125 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] In its fifth meeting today, the People's Unity Front [FUP] raised political, social, and economic issues in an attempt to help resolve the country's crisis. The Economic Order Commission deems it necessary to reestablish the banking system in view of the current situation in order to resolve the problem of a lack of currency within the shortest possible time. The Economic Order Commission also suggested ways to negotiate the foreign debt and defined its position on the possible issuance of paper money.

For its part, the Political Commission proposed that constitutional changes be guaranteed for the country's democratization and that an effective definition of the executive, legislative, and judicial organizations be made. This commission also deemed it necessary to discuss the fulfillment and implementation of Law 20, which regulates the activities of the Panama Defense Forces, to define the terms of a truce with the opposition, and to allow for an adequate Electoral Tribunal composition.

The International Order Commission suggested the need to study the existing agreements with the United States, specifically the existing Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which refer to U.S. bases in Panama.

The Social Order Commission reported that one of their goals is to strengthen the communications media's freedom of expression. This commission also must develop the government's short-term social programs.

Delvalle: U.S. Sanctions Bring 'Good Results'
PA131851 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1823 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 13 Apr (DPA)—Ousted Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle has said from hiding that "I have never resigned from my post." He said the U.S. economic pressures on General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime "are producing good results."

In an interview published today by Bogota's EL TIEMPO, Delvalle said "it will not be long before Gen Noriega falls." Delvalle expressed confidence that Panama will quickly recover from the crisis caused by the U.S. embargo.

The former Panamanian president, who was ousted for having dismissed Noriega, said the United States had been initially deceived by Noriega. "When they (the U.S. Government)became aware of Noriega's falseness and two-facedness," Delvalle explained, "they thought things over and decided it was time to stop trusting him. Nevertheless, I cannot say the Reagan administration is to blame. I also made the same mistake."

Barria on Noriega Departure, Church Mediation
PA140155 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The National Civic Crusade [CCN] has not rejected the church's mediation, but rather has accepted its mediation subject to clear conditions, Aurelio Barria, president of the Chamber of Commerce, stated today:

[Begin Barria recording] The important thing that all Panamanians are asking is how and when Noriega will leave. That is a demand of all the Panamanian people. His departure would be the first step in resolving the crisis. Once this topic is discussed, I think we Panamanians can contribute ideas for finding the right path. That is necessary, and we insist that not only must he leave his post, but, for the good of the country, he must leave the country as the result of a political agreement. We have not rejected the church's mediation. We have accepted the church's mediation subject to clear conditions, subject to the conditions that all Panamanians demand: that it be based on a discussion of Noriega's departure and that Noriega agree that that is an important point in resolving the crisis we are experiencing. [end recording]

Argentina

Nicaraguan Interior Minister Borge Visits

On Central America

PY140049 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0151 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (TELAM)—Tonight Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge said that conditions for the continuity of the Sandinist revolution notably improved in 1987. Borge attributed this situation partly to the constant solidarity Latin American countries have shown toward the revolution.

Borge particularly thanked Argentina's support and asserted that in reciprocity, Nicaraguans will always be ready to offer their unconditional support for Argentina, particularly regarding the Malvinas cause.

Tonight Borge held a news conference at the auditorium of the National Congress annex building. He was accompanied by Deputy Oscar Alende (PI) [Intransigent Party], Deputy Miguel Monserrat (PI), Deputy Jose Ramos (PJ) [Justicialist Party], Deputy Simon Lazara (PSU) [Unified Socialist Party], and Deputy Guillermo Esteves Boero (PSP) [Popular Socialist Party].

Among those improved conditions for the Nicaraguan revolution Borge mentioned the decrease of the so-called contra forces from 12,000 men to only 6,000. He also noted the U.S. Congress refusal to increase military aid to the irregular forces.

Before a crowd that filled the deputies' chamber auditorium, Borge said the Managua government is willing to make sacrifices to achieve peace. He added any sacrifice is justified if it helps to save the blood of combatants of the revolution.

Borge admitted that despite the efforts made by the Managua government, the economic crisis has increased and that in view of this, social aid and adult education programs had to be suspended in 1987. He added: Sixty percent of our national budget must be alloted to defense purposes. It is impossible to continue with this situation indefinitely.

Borge said: The Nicaraguan people are aware of their economic burdens and they know who is responsible for them. This is why they do not protest against the government and why they are willing to defend their fatherland against foreign aggression.

Regarding the Panamanian situation and in reference to General Manuel Noriega and the return of the canal as established in the agreements signed by Carter and Torrijos, Borge said: There the United States is trying to do away with more than just one man.

On Panama

PY131533 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0401 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (EFE)—In remarks made in the press room of the Argentine Congress, today Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge urged the continent's countries "to create a wave of support for the people of Panama."

Borge, who met with congressmen who are members of leftist parties, stressed that the United States wants to do more than sack General Noriega, Panama's strongman: "It is seeking to do away with the canal treaty, with which it does not want to comply."

The Sandinist leader added that his country is suffering "a severe economic crisis" due to high defense costs "in our struggle against the rebels operating on the border with Honduras."

Borge arrived in Argentina on 6 April and then traveled to Uruguay to meet with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and participate in a public rally supporting Nicaragua. He returned to Argentina on 12 April.

The Nicaraguan interior minister, who on 13 April will meet with the leaders of political parties represented in Congress, indicated that a meeting with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin could be made possible "if someone invites me."

The Argentine Government has remained silent regarding the Central American leader's remarks, and so far has not extended an invitation.

Meets Alfonsin

PY140242 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0037 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (TELAM)—It has been officially reported that during a meeting this afternoon at the Olivos residence, President Raul Alfonsin reviewed the Central American situation with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerutti and the Nicaraguan ambassador to Argentina, Fernando Guzman Cuadra, as well as the deputy chief of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry International Relations Department, Jose Paz Marcciaka, also participated in the one-half-hour meeting.

Borge, who is on a private visit to Argentina, said at the end of the meeting that it was a pleasure to shake hands with the Argentine president.

Borge said that, as the main maker of Argentine foreign policy, Alfonsin has always been consistent. Borge also praised the very positive role played by Foreign Ministry representatives at the Contadora Support Group.

Borge said that it is indispensable for the Contadora Support Group to survive as a guarantee of the effectiveness of peace in Central America and especially in Nicaragua.

During the meeting, Borge presented Alfonsin with a gift, consisting of a piece of tapestry artfully woven in Nicaragua with fibers of native plants.

Group Threatens Congressmen, Military Men

PY131513 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0124 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (NA)—Today the terrorist group that identifies itself as the OAS-MRP-For National Liberation [expansion unknown] issued death threats against more than 30 people, including high-ranking military officers, congressmen, and ministers of the excecutive branch.

The threats were made through two communiques that were sent to several media offices in this capital. The communiques are written on ordinary letter-size paper and include an ink drawing of the bust of General Jose de San Martin in the upper left-hand corner and a drawing of a condor at the foot of the text.

Those responsible for the communiques mantain that 36 political and military people have been "condemned to death by the Revolutionary Justice Tribunal, which met on 6 April 1988," and they stress that "the sentences will be carried out during the course of this year."

The list includes Congressmen Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen, Carlos Auyero, Federico Storani, Eduardo Trilla, Edison Otero, Eduardo Duhalde, Leopoldo Moreau, Adolfo Gass, Miguel Angel Toma, Jose Manuel de la Sota, Maria Julia Alsogaray, Raul Rabanaque Caballero, Julio Corzo, Roberto Dijon, Ruben Cardozo, Jesus Rodriguez, Jose Luis Manzano, Marcelo Stubrin, Cesar Jaroslavsky, Carlos Juarez, and Osvaldo Alvarez Guerrero.

The following people are also mentioned: Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena, Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli, Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, Public Works and Services Minister Rodolfo Terragno, Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe, and Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn.

Secretary General of the Presidency Carlos Becerra and Prosecutor General Juan Octavio Gauna also figure on the list.

Among the high-ranking military officers, the communiques of the terrorists mention Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi and Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Ramon Arosa.

Finally, the communique mentions [words indistinct] Juan Carlos Crespo.

The communique also stresses that those whose names appear on the list "have already been informed" about the alleged decision, and it warns that "the mechanism for carrying it out has already been implemented."

The slogan "OAS-MRP-For National Liberation" was printed on the pamphlets that were found in downtown cinemas in this capital, where pamphlet bombs exploded 2 weeks ago.

Former Air Force Commander on Falklands War

PY132216 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1525 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (NA)—Today former Air Force Commander Brigadier General Carlos Alberto Rey, retired, said that the Joint Staff Intelligence Service had forseen in 1982 the possibility that the United Kingdom would send a force to recover the Malvinas Islands "from eight different places," but the list did not include Ascencion Island.

In the rekindling of the interforce debate over the 1982 war, a few weeks before the federal court of this capital starts hearing the trial on the military and political conduct of the conflict, Rey said that the attack on the bridgehead in San Carlos Bay was ineffective because the Army had not identified the bombing targets through reconnaisance missions.

Rey said that the Argentine Government did not expect a British offensive strategy in the South Atlantic war; therefore the Argentine Government "acted defensively and began all sorts of improvised measures seeking to counteract the British actions."

He also said that, contrary to what the United Kingdom did, "our country did not use information from the many news agencies." This means that "the Secretariat for State Intelligence had no idea of the plans that were being made," and the same thing happened "with our embassy in London, which was not consulted."

Rey stated that "the Armed Forces intelligence services were not used either," and he added: "Intelligence activity was carried out by the joint staff, which, for security reasons, acted completely alone."

In an article published by AEROSPACIO magazine, Rey, who was a member of the military junta during the presidency of Lieutenant General Alejandro Agustin Lanusse, says intelligence work was "unsatisfactory."

Rey says that the intelligence work was unsatisfactory to such an extent that "a report on the probable bases that the United Kingdom might use in a hypothetical military attack did not mention Ascension Island."

Rey added: "About eight sites throughout the world were included in this report, but not Ascension Island, whose existence they apparently did not discover until 2 April."

Angeloz' Status in Radical Party Viewed
WA141028 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Mar 87 p 6

[Article by Atilio Cadorin: "The Candidate and the Party"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Alfonsin's gesture in the face of the attempt made by Caputo and Barrios Arrechea to enter the primaries should send a signal to the party. "Alfonsin supports Angeloz' candidacy and he implicitly ratified this decision when he invalidated, to say the least, Caputo's and Barrios Arrechea's aspirations," the Radicals say. There is no reason to believe otherwise.

However, there have been veiled confrontations between the Cordoba governor and some sectors within the UCR, specifically within the National Coordinating Board. In fact, to be more exact, one should say there had been more confrontations than usual.

Angeloz began receiving support from the Balbin faction, from a good number of the "historic" group within Renewal and Change, from the punteros [those who head the slate and who must gather together party members who will vote for them in the primaries] in the federal capital, from the Cordoba Radicals, naturally, as well as from the Mendoza members of the National Cause.

But Angeloz, according to his supporters, finds a party with undefined lines. Traditionally, the Radical Party has had a middle sector, a right wing, and a left wing. In the past it was very clear as to which place each occupied, where the lines were drawn or who called the shots. These tendencies still prevail today, but they are not as clearly defined.

This is becausse the party, traditionally known as the party of the Argentine middle class, produced a governmentthat, during these past years, has made a series of moves and countermoves, which has brought more confusion to what was already there. It went from an enthusiasm over social democracy to an alliance with the labor unions through the so-called "Group of 15" and from the Austral Plan to an inflation estimated at 15 percent for this month.

Also, from the third historic movement to the idea of Alfonsin's reelection and constitutional reform, from the election euphoria to the 6 September defeat, which reminded the Radicals that ordinary, everyday problems also matter, and from the protagonist aspiration in Central America to the affirmation—probably somewhat excessive—that "Great Britain finds itself cornered."

The Effect of the Elections [subhead]

Angeloz emerged from the 6 September 1987 results almost as the sole winner, which opened the doors to his presidential candidacy. But it also left a party with internal problems and political plans without resources.

Angeloz faces the Coordinating Board. [passage omitted]

It is said that the Coordinating Board suggested to Angeloz that he should launch his campaign in a stadium—River Stadium was proposed—as a demonstration of support. Modestly, Angeloz insisted in the presence of Nosiglia, Caceres, Federico Storani, and Becerra that it be the Luna Park.

Apparently, the meeting had a strong negotiator: Raul Alfonsin. The president, perhaps foreseeing serious confrontations, urged the leaders of the Coordinating Board to meet with Angeloz. It is unlikely, however, that Caceres or Storani have abandoned their efforts to exert their ideological influence on the electoral campaign and on what is being said during the campaign.

Nosiglia and Becerra are looking for another kind of influence, since they are more pragmatic. They want to know where they will fit in the power structure beyond 1989 should the Radicals win.

Ideology and Efficiency [subhead]

This topic seems unclear. It is unlikely that Storani's ideological vision would be compatible with Angeloz' belief that emphasis should be placed on efficiency or on issues such as business profits, foreign capital incentives, or investments.

The radicals contend that those who are now pressuring to have a say in Angeloz' campaign are the "losers." In addition, "Nosiglia, with all his alliances, could not prevent the Radicals from obtaining fewer votes in the capital than they did in 1985. Storani lost the primary; he got the fewest number of votes. Caceres was defeated by the Peronists, and a month later he lost in Rosario. Usandizaga recovered about 100,000 votes for the UCR."

Angeloz will probably face a dual message in the Radical campaign, since the intention is to attract independent votes, except that one sector in the party leans toward the center left and another looks more to the center right, as it is felt that the probable votes to be added to the UCR can be found there. There is the risk that by seeking to corner the two sectors the UCR may end by losing both.

Officials Leave for IMF Meeting in U.S.

PY131346 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] An Argentine delegation headed by Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille has left for Washington. The delegation, which also includes Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea and Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn, will attend the IMF meetings.

Brodersohn did not rule out the possibility that Argentina will ask the IMF to grant discounts and approve long-term agreements.

Foreign Minister Tours African Countries

For African-source reportage on the tour of African countries by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, beginning with his visits to Ghana and the Ivory Coast, see the 12 April Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Brazil

Constituent Assembly on Armed Forces Duties

PY131503 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The National Constituent Assembly has approved an amendment by which the Armed Forces will continue safeguarding constitutional powers and internal and external order.

The Constituent Assembly also decided to maintain compulsory military service, and it approved the president's right to declare a state of siege and state of defense. [passage omitted]

According to the amendment, after consulting with the Council of Ministers and the National Defense Council, the president of the Republic will be able to decree a 30-day state of defense to preserve public order and social peace.

Throughout this period, citizens' rights to meet will be restricted, and the privacy of their mail, telephone, and telegraph communications may be violated.

Congress must approve the state of defense decree within 24 hours after it is issued. If Congress rejects it, the state of defense will immediately be suspended.

The president will be entitled to declare a state of siege under the same conditions, in case the measures of the state of defense or of a war declaration are inefficient. The restrictive measures of the state of siege will be greater.

There will be no freedom to hold meetings and the government will be entitled to raid and arrest people in their homes. The government will also be entitled to assume the operation of public companies and services and to confiscate goods. Congressional immunity will also be suspended.

President Sarney Dismisses IBGE President

PY140044 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney has dismissed IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] President Edson Nunes. Nunes was dismissed for his delay in punishing strikers of the institute. A sociologist, Nunes was assigned to the IBGE in November 1986, replacing Ademar Bacha, one of the ideologists behind the Cruzado Plan.

Economist Celsius Loder, former superintendant of SUNAB [National Superintendency of Supplies], will be acting IBGE President. Loder has been a government official since 1985, and lately he has been Planning Assistant Secretary. He has been authorized to dismiss those who hold posts of confidence and who are on strike.

Itamaraty Repudiates Kuwait Plane Hijacking

PY131454 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Brazilian Foreign Ministry regrets the hijacking of the Kuwait Airlines plane. According to an official communique, the Brazilian Government repudiates all terrorist actions, wherever they are carried out for whatever reasons. The Kuwait Airlines airplanes has been hijacked for 9 days. Two hostages have been murdered.

Chile

Pinochet Raps Opposition, Discusses Plebiscite

PY131302 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] In the eighth region, President Pinochet said that the opposition has nothing to offer the nation, while the government is showing the nation a restored, democratic institutional order.

President Pinochet made this remark while commenting on current political issues in the Santa Juana district.

During his visit, the president emphasized the importance of our Constitution, which was approved by a large majority in 1980, a fact opposition sectors are trying to disregard.

Pinochet said that these sectors are trying to artificially revive the old and hackneyed systems whose implementation would be harmful—systems which are presented with deceitful rhetoric and have the intention of confusing the good faith of Chileans.

Pinochet added that the people must be aware that these sectors, as they have done before, promise what they will not be able to deliver. Undoubtedly they will continue doing this. Later, the head of state added:

[Begin Pinochet recording] Now, there are other people who, with astonishing boldness, want to take credit for the government's achievements to profit politically from those achievements in order to be able to assume power. How impudent those politicians are!

Likewise, those sectors are continuously launching violent and slanderous attacks against the Armed Forces and the forces of order, seeking to portray them as just another political party, and ignoring the fact that the Armed Forces and the forces of order are basic institutions of the Republic.

These sectors owe their very existence to the Armed Forces and the forces of order—or have they already forgotten that they once knocked on the doors of the barracks, clamoring for shelter, protection, and justice?

Thus, it is paradoxical, to say the least, that some politicians, who in the past asked for the intervention of the Armed Forces and the forces of order in view of the imminence of a civil war to which the Marxist government exposed us, are now trying to revile those forces.

Let it be well-known by those who seek to harm the reputation of the Armed Forces that the moral firmness of these institutions has been confirmed by history, that they have earned the recognition of the people, and that no politician will never be able to tarnish them.

These institutions, which have been so unjustly attacked, have actually restored—without a vengeful spirit—democracy in Chile, establishing a stable system in which the political sectors can responsibly act in the future.

These sectors, which are now attacking our Armed Forces, constitute or represent a group of parties that have not kept pace with the times and with events. I am sure that they are rejected by all Chileans. [end recording]

Afterward, the president discussed the upcoming plebiscite, stating that in the solitude of the ballot boxes we will soon have to decide whether the country will be consolidated as a modern nation or retrogress to the critical days that preceded 11 September 1973.

He said there are only two alternatives: either we consolidate the institutions, or we march toward chaos.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Gentlemen, in its letter and spirit, the Chilean Constitution certainly does not consider the no vote alternative as leading to chaos. It would have been insane for the constituent assembly members to have considered it to be so and then to word the Constitution in this way.

The Constitution offers a clear-cut process for the second alternative included in the institutional system, itself. However, if we observe the selfish disputes within the opposition parties and movements, the vested-interest chiefdoms, and the alliances between Marxists and self-styled democrats, we notice that the economic and political models they propose are nothing but a faithful reflection of so much disorder, improvisation, backwardness, and stubbornness to relive the past. They only seek personal or party sinecures.

In sum, those who are advocating the no vote alternative are the most obvious expression of a demagogic political style and of promises that will never be fulfilled.

Gentlemen, these are the sectors that actually seek to commit fraud. These sectors are the ones that are responsible because, using the money they are collecting abroad, they are trying to impose their international goals, raising false hopes, disseminating multiple campaigns of hatred and lies, and trying to lull the conscience of the Chileans, who will not be deluded by these siren songs. [end recording]

It must be understood, President Pinochet added, that the opposition has never offered a safe way for liberty, progress, and personal and collective accomplishments.

Pinochet added that the opposition turned the country into chaos, and its only goal is to tread the same path because all those who have united under the no vote drive, both Marxists and supporters of other ideologies, have not offered an alternative to the one they implemented when they led the country into the greatest political, moral, economic, and social disaster in Chilean history.

However, the chief executive pointed out, this government is preparing to begin a new process, which, taking advantage of the modernization projects achieved, will permit the country to move forward into the future, toward unrestricted individual liberty for every Chilean citizen.

There is a restored, democratic institutional order that we are proud to offer to the nation, the president emphasized.

Merino Reiterates Next Leader To Be Civilian

PY131521 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro has reiterated that the next president of the Republic, who will take the oath of office on 11 March 1989, will do so as a civilian, regardless of the status he held when he ran for the presidency.

Merino made this comment after presiding over the regular session of the legislative branch at the Diego Portales Building.

[Begin Merino recording] Regarding the candidate, I believe it can be stated that the next president of the Republic will be a civilian when he takes the oath of office on 11 March. [end recording]

Carvajal on Armed Forces Role, Politics
PY132129 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1700 GMT 13 Apr 88

[By reporter Graciela Contreras from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] A few minutes ago National Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal clearly stated here that no one is involved in politics within the regiments, responding to comments the opposition has been making in this regard over the past few weeks.

Asked about remarks the head of state made yesterday to the effect that the Armed Forces will not be tarnished, the national defense minister said:

[Begin recording] [Carvajal] We are ready to defend ourselves from these attacks by acting correctly, by making every effort to act correctly in all procedures.

[Reporter] What does that mean?

[Carvajal] It means we are concerned about maintaining the image of the Armed Forces and the national defense forces in general, including the police [words indistinct] criticism. That is what I mean. However, whenever we are unjustly criticized, we will use all available legal means to defend ourselves. [end recording]

The national defense minister made these comments after meeting with the president of the Republic, with whom he discussed several issues concerning Chilean affairs.

Carvajal also focused on precautionary measures against the drive by extremists, which has already claimed several lives.

Asked if this situation would prompt the implementation of a more drastic state of exception than the measures thus far enforced, Patricio Carvajal said that this was not the case, that possibilities are just being studied to be more active, to increase precautions, to be very alert, and to fulfill the role that is appropriate for the forces of order and security.

Protest to Sweden Over FPMR Leader Interview
PY140034 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 13 April 88

[Text] Chile has lodged an official protest with Sweden over the radio time granted by the Swedish domestic service to terrorist Sergio Buschmann.

The Chilean Government's protest was delivered to the Swedish charge d'affaires, (Stefan Wichtal), who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry by the Foreign Ministry bilateral policy director, Jaime Lagos.

As is known, Sergio Buschmann has been charged with the illegal entry of arms and explosives into Chile and with being one of the masterminds of the attempt on the life of the president of the Republic.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci has said that Chile also protested the fact that the Swedish authorities have not taken any measures against Buschmann in keeping with the current international agreements on terrorism.

[Begin Ducci recording] The Swedish charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry by Jaime Lagos, the Foreign Ministry bilateral policy director, to receive a protest lodged by the Chilean Government for the radio time granted by the Swedish domestic service, a state-owned organization, to a fugitive of the Chilean courts and a well-known terrorist, Sergio Buschmann, and also to protest the fact that, in keeping with the current international agreements on terrorism, the Swedish authorities have not taken any measures against this person who now is in Swedish territory. [end recording]

Ducci added that the Foreign Ministry is expecting a response from the Swedish Government to this formal protest.

The fugitive FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] leader was interviewed last night by the Swedish domestic service, from which it follows that he is in that country.

During the interview, the extremist disclosed that he is touring Europe to gain support for the activities of the terrorist groups which he leads.

The FPMR leader also announced the holding of demonstrations in Chile for 16 April and admitted the existence of joint actions by the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], the FPMR, and the Lautaro organization.

It must be recalled that the Lautaro terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the killing of Carabinero Samuel Lopez Contreras.

Argentine Diplomat Denies Weapons Smuggling

PY131540 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0312 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 12 Apr (TELAM-ANSA)—Today Raul Estrada, minister counselor of the Argentine Embassy in Chile, said: "We have no evidence of weapons trafficking from Argentina to Chile for the self-styled Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR]."

The diplomat thus referred to press reports that an Argentine border police member, accused of murdering a couple in Neuquen, had admitted to having been pressured to transport weapons from Argentina to Chile.

Estrada said that according to an investigation by the Neuquen court, there is no evidence confirming reports of weapons trafficking from Argentina to Chile.

The press reports had great repercussions in Chile after the well-known military prosecutor in charge of terrorist cases requested information about the possible use of southern mountain passes to smuggle weapons from Argentina to the clandestine FPMR.

The Argentine diplomat said the governor and military prosecutor of the southern Chilean city of Osorno (where there are many nearby mountain passes to Argentina) "totally ruled out the possibility of weapons smuggling in the region."

Government Condemns Kuwaiti Air Hijacking

PY140231 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon the Foreign Ministry issued a communique expressing the Chilean Government's repudiation of the terrorist attack against a Kuwaiti Airlines airplane, an attack that has claimed the lives of two passangers at the hands of the terrorist group.

The communique, in addition to expressing the government's strong repudiation, expresses the Chilean Government's solidarity with the Kuwaiti people and government.

The communique adds that these terrorist actions represent a serious violation of the principle of international peaceful coexistance and should be condemned by all civilized nations.

Carabineros Tighten Security After Attacks

PY132042 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Carabineros General Directorate has ordered the immediate reorganization and tightening of the services it offers the public and the safety of its members beginning today.

This information was disclosed by the Carabineros Public Information secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Mario Salame Martin, who read the following communique:

[Begin recording] In view of the escalation of criminal events that affect and grieve the institution, the Carabineros General Directorate hereby informs the public:

1. This year 3 members of the Carabinero forces have been cowardly murdered by terrorists, another 26 have been seriously wounded, and 3 stations have repelled attacks perpetrated with highly-destructive weapons.

2. During the month of April alone, Corporals Alfredo Rivera Rojas and Samuel Lopez Contreras were murdered in cold blood. Moreover, Carabineros Officer Gloria Sobarto Moreno, who was guarding the life of very small children on the street, was wounded. Corporals Samuel Flores Penalillo and Arturo Ramirez Sanchez were also wounded.

3. In view of this series of attacks that have affected members of this institution, the Carabineros of Chile energetically reject and voice their deep sorrow over these acts which not only grieve the force and bring sorrow and unrest to the homes of its members, but also reveal that these evil maneuvers significantly identify the concealed presence of subversive elements and terrorist groups, financed from abroad, whose only aim is to seed hatred, death, and destruction.

4. The entire country should be aware that these murders and attacks are part of a deliberate spiral of violence, which, in turn, is a direct consequence of a subversive plan, which has already been denounced and publicly vindicated by those who, without fear of legal reprisals, assume the leadership of the violent offensive.

5. In this regard, the Carabineros of Chile reiterate their firm and unwavering determination to curb any type of action designed to alter the citizenry's peace or threaten the life and assets of the inhabitants of the Republic.

6. These continuous and sustained actions against the men and women who serve the Carabineros force are undoubtedly designed to attain two objectives: first, to artificially create a feeling of helplessness, anarchy, and weakening of authority; and, second, to force our institution to adopt measures that are not in accordance with normal procedures.

7. The citizenry should rest assured that the Carabineros will never be dragged into the endless chain of violence that terrorism seeks to initiate. However, this should not be regarded as a sign of weakness; quite the contrary. The General Directorate has ordered, as of today, an immediate reorganization and tightening of its services in order to safeguard order, public safety, and the integrity of the members of the institution.

Likewise, it will resort to all legal mechanisms currently in force to demand the maximum punishment, including the death penalty, for those responsible for such shameful crimes.

Signed: Santiago 13 April 1988, Carabineros General Directorate. [end recording]

Caribineros Officer Wounded in Valparaiso

PY131407 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] According to an official communique issued by the Carabineros headquarters of the metropolitan region, a second attack against a Carabineros officer, who was dressed in plain clothes, has been perpetrated by unidentified persons.

The communique on this attack, which took place in the Estacion Central area, states:

An group of unidentified individuals attacked Carabineros officer Arturo Ramirez Sanchez at 1515 yesterday, 12 April.

The Carabineros officer of the Valparaiso Carabineros station, who was off duty, was attacked with firearms on the corner of Avenue 5 de Abril and Nicasio Retamales Street. As a result of this cowardly attack, officer Ramirez sustained a serious bullet wound in the right leg. The officer has been admitted to the Carabineros hospital.

Explosion Causes Minor Damange to Railroad

PY131403 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] An explosive device manufactured with ammonium gelignite was detonated last night at km 14 on the railway line linking Santiago to southern Chile.

The bomb, activated mechanically with a short fuse, caused only minor damage.

Colombia

Police Seize M-19 Arsenal Near Bogota

PA132002 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The police seized an M-19 arsenal in Bosa, southwestern Bogota, this morning. During the raid they found rockets, grenades, and military uniforms. Alvaro Ayala filed this report:

[Begin Ayala recording] During an operation in Bosa, military uniforms, including four uniforms belonging to police and Army officers, were found; uniforms belonging to private security agencies were also found. Revolvers, dynamite, ammunition, rockets, grenades, and bombs were found in the arsenal.

An officer said an unidentified guerrilla group attacked the Military Club in Bogota 3 weeks ago with a rocket similar to the ones found in Bosa.

The subversives opened fire on the police during the operation. A rebel identified as Jose Nubio Lopez was killed during the action; another, Nelson Misas, was wounded. The authorities sustained no casualties. [end recording]

Briefs

FARC Seeks Caqueta Cease-Fire

According to Msgr Jose Luis Serna Alzate, the bishop of Florencia, the four FARC fronts located in Caqueta will reportedly request an official resumption of the cease-fire agreement cancelled by President Barco last year after a FARC attack against an Army convoy in which 27 soldiers were killed. FARC will send an official document to President Barco through his adviser for peace, Rafael Pardo Rueda. The document was drawn up after the four FARC front leaders met separately this month with department political leaders from the Social Conservative Party, New Liberalism, the Liberal Party, and the Patriotic Union. The meetings were coordinated by Luciano Marin from the House of Representatives. Presidential adviser Rafael Pardo also plans to meet with the local verification committee which is investigating charges against FARC of extortion, blackmail, and kidnappings. [Summary] [*WA111412 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Mar 88 p 6A*]

Antioquia UP Mayors Threatened

The Death to Northeastern Revolutionaries self-defense group has threatened to assassinate the five UP [Patriotic Union] mayors who were recently elected in Antioquia. In a pamphlet released to the news media in Bogota, the group claimed to have proof that the FARC and the UP were responsible for the recent assassination of Victor Londono Restrepo, who was kidnapped and murdered for his alleged ties with Death to Northeastern Revolutionaries. It vowed to kill the UP mayors in retaliation for Londono's death. [Summary] [*WA131050 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Mar 88 p 9A*]

Uruguay

Cuban Labor Official Arrives in Montevideo

PY131853 Montevideo Radio Libertad in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Summary] "Cuban Labor Minister [title as heard] Francisco Linares Calvo arrived in our country today. He is accompanied by Cuban Central Committee Vice President [name indistinct]."

Linares Calvo "was met at the airport by the labor minister and the labor secretary, as well as by other high ranking officials of that ministry."

"The visiting Cuban official stressed the friendship felt by the Cuban people toward Uruguay."

He then spoke to journalists about the labor situation in his country.